

IN THE CLAIMS:

Listing of the claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for drying items of clothing, which comprises:
 - providing an item of clothing;
 - providing at least one gas nozzle for supplying a jet of a gas;
 - moving said at least one gas nozzle and the clothing item relative to one another; and
 - impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion the clothing item in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item.
2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas nozzle.
3. (original) The method according to claim 2, which further comprises supporting the clothing item with a supporting surface.
4. (original) The method according to claim 2, which further comprises supporting the clothing item with an air-permeable supporting surface.
5. (original) The method according to claim 3, which further comprises disposing the clothing item between two air-permeable surfaces.
6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, which further comprises supporting the clothing item by a gas nozzle.

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, which further comprises exerting jets of gas from gas nozzles on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other having a total force on the clothing item equal in magnitude.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, which further comprises:

providing at least two gas nozzles disposed on opposite sides of the clothing item and facing one another; and

directing jets of gas on both sides of the clothing item with a total force on the clothing item being equal in magnitude.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, which further comprises exerting jets of gas from gas nozzles on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other on sections of the clothing item with one of the gas nozzles having a higher force than another one of the gas nozzles.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, which further comprises exerting jets of gas from gas nozzles on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other on sections of the clothing item with the gas nozzles having substantially the same force on both sides.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises providing the at least one gas nozzle with heated gas.

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the jet of gas contains heated gas.

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises providing the at least one gas nozzle with water vapor.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the jet of gas contains water vapor.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises, at an end of the drying step, heating the gas nozzle to calender the clothing item initially with substantially dry and heated air and then with substantially dry and non-heated air.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a directional distribution of the at least one jet of gas while drying the clothing item.

18. (previously presented) A method for drying items of clothing, which comprises:
- providing an item of clothing;
 - providing at least one gas nozzle for supplying a jet of a gas;
 - moving said at least one gas nozzle and the clothing item relative to one another; and
 - impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion of the clothing item at an angle different from zero to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item.

19. (original) A method for drying items of clothing, which comprises:
- providing an item of clothing;
 - providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a gas;
 - drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion;
 - supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas jet;
 - supporting the clothing item by exerting gas streams from gas jets on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other;
 - moving the at least one gas jet and the clothing item relative to one another;
 - providing the at least one gas jet with at least one of heated gas and water vapor;
 - at an end of the drying step, heating the gas jet to calender the clothing item initially with substantially dry and heated air and then with substantially dry and non-heated air; and
 - varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a directional distribution of the at least one gas jet while drying the clothing item.

20. (previously presented) An apparatus for drying items of clothing, comprising:

- a housing defining a treatment space;
- devices disposed in said housing for disposing items of clothing within said treatment space;
- a blower disposed at said housing for producing a gas flow; and
- nozzles disposed in said housing and communicating with said blower, said nozzles being aligned to impact a jet of gas of the gas flow produced by said blower on at least one portion of an item of clothing in said treatment space in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing, and said gas nozzle and the clothing item being moveable relative to one another for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item.

Claims 21 - 22(canceled)